

## Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 NIC-01 OMB-01

SCA-01 CU-04 /157 W

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R 261306Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5297

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 2896

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, UY, UR

SUBJ: A HARDER LINE TOWARDS THE COMMUNISTS?

USCINCSO FOR POLAD

REF: MVD 2641; IR6 900 0224 73, 19SEP

1. SUMMARY: THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF INDICATIONS RECENTLY THAT THE GOU IS TAKING A HARDER LINE WITH RESPECT TO "INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM" AND THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS FEELING AT LEAST SOME OF THE CONSEQUENCES. OUTLAWING THE URUGUAYAN COMMUNIST PARTY MAY FOLLOW.

2. LATE IN AUGUST THE CONSERVATIVE BLANCO DAILY, "EL PAIS," RAN A SERIES OF ARTICLES ABOUT THE SCHEVCHENKOS, AN ELDERLY COUPLE WHO CAME TO URUGUAY YEARS AGO, SETTLED IN AN AREA POPULATED BY RUSSIAN IMMIGRANTS, HAD A NUMBER OF CHILDREN HERE AND LATER RETURNED TO THE SOVIET UNION. "EL PAIS" CLAIMED THAT THE FAMILY, WHICH INCLUDES FIVE OR SIX URUGUAYAN CITIZENS, WISHED TO RETURN TO URUGUAY BUT WAS BEING DENIED PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE SOVIET UNION.

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THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR SUSPENDED THE ISSUANCE OF VISAS

TO NON-DIPLOMATIC SOVIET CITIZENS WHILE THE GOU AND THE URUGUAYAN RED CROSS SOUGHT THE SCHEVCHENKOS' "RELEASE." ON SEPTEMBER 21 THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR ANNOUNCED THAT THE SCHEVCHENKOS FAMILY HAD BEEN GIVEN PERMISSION TO LEAVE THE SOVIET UNION. SUBSEQUENTLY, A FONOFF SOURCE TOLD AN EMBOFF THAT THE MINISTRY "ASSUMED" THAT INTERIOR WOULD BE APPROVING THE ISSUANCE OF SOVIET VISAS ONCE AGAIN. AMONG THOSE DENIED VISAS WERE CONCERT PIANIST VLADIMIR BAKK, WHO HAD TO CANCEL ENGAGEMENTS, AND A SOVIET SOCCER SCOUT WHO WAS TO HAVE ATTENDED AN INTERNATIONAL MATCH IN MONTEVIDEO.

3. THE SCHEVCHENKO AFFAIR MAY HAVE RESULTED FROM THE SMALL COUNTRY SYNDROME AND A DESIRE TO TWIST THE BEAR'S TAIL. HOWEVER, IT WAS ONLY THE MOST PUBLICIZED OF A SERIES OF CLUES AS TO THE GOU'S CHANGING ATTITUDE. MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE NARANCIO TOLD THE DCM THAT HE HAD BLOCKED THE VISIT OF A SOVIET CULTURAL GROUP AND A FONOFF SOURCE INDICATED TO US SOME TIME AGO THAT SOVIET VISA REQUESTS WERE BEING SCRUTINIZED MUCH MORE CAREFULLY.

4. ON AUGUST 15 THE PRESIDENT, IN HIS INDEPENDENCE DAY ADDRESS, ACCUSED ENEMIES OF THE NATION OF TRYING TO UNDERMINE ITS INSTITUTIONS, STATING THAT WHILE THESE TRAITORS HID BEHIND A FACADE OF NATIONALISM THEY "FOLLOWED INTERNATIONAL ORDERS" (A-127).

5. ON SEPTEMBER 11, ARMY CINC CHIAPPE REPORTED TO THE NATION OF THE CARACAS MEETING OF AMERICAN ARMY COMMANDERS (A-133). GENERAL CHIAPPE DESCRIBED INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM AS THE PRINCIPAL IMPEDIMENT TO DEVELOPMENT AND THE MOST DANGEROUS TYPE AGGRESSION CONFRONTING THE NATION. THIS THEME WAS DEVELOPED FURTHER BY LUIS FORTEZA, THE SENIOR GENERAL IN URUGUAY, DURING A SEPTEMBER 23 TELEVISED ADDRESS COMMEMORATING ARTIGAS' DEATH.

6. WHILE WE ARE GETTING CONFLICTING INFORMATION AS TO WHETHER THE GOU IS TOUGHENING UP TOWARDS THE USSR, SUCH A POLICY CLEARLY WOULD COINCIDE WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT ACTIONS WHICH INDICATE A TOUGHER LINE AGAINST THE LEFT  
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GENERALLY (SEE REFTEL). WITH RESPECT TO THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF URUGUAY (PCU), SOME GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS RECOGNIZE THAT IT IS AMONG THE MORE MODERATE GROUPS ON THE LEFT AND WOULD PREFER NOT TO DRIVE IT UNDERGROUND. HOWEVER, WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO SEE IT OUTLAWED, PARTICULARLY NOW THAT THE CHILEAN MILITARY HAS OUTLAWED THE CHILEAN COMMUNIST PARTY. RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO MILITARY ESTABLISHMENTS ARE WARM AND CLOSE AND MANY URUGUAYAN

OFFICERS WHO ARE FOLLOWING EVENTS IN CHILE INTENTLY ARE  
OPENLY EXPRESSING ADMIRATION FOR THE MEASURES BEING TAKEN  
BY THEIR CHILEAN COUNTERPARTS.  
SIRACUSA

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